SHISEI

BY

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WITH EVERY PRICK OF MY NEEDLE
EVERY SOUND IT MAKES
I FEEL A STAB IN MY OWN HEART.
A VIVID LOVE STORY OF SURREPTITIOUS, YET INTENSE, LONGING OF TWO SOULS.
tattoo
刺青
Ryo Yokobaba
横馬場リョウ
EVERY PUNCTURE ON YOUR SKIN,

I MAY HAVE LET YOU TATTOO ME BECAUSE I FELT OBLIGED TO YOUR FATHER, THE FIRST HORIMATSU, BUT YOU'RE ACTUALLY GOOD.
YOUR TATTOOS ARE, IN FACT, JUST AS IMPRESSIVE AS HIS.
I ALSO ADMIRE YOUR SPIRIT IN TAKING OVER A TRADE FORBIDDEN TO WOMEN
FROM NOW ON, I'LL LEAVE MY MEN IN YOUR SERVICE.
clatter
HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT'S RAINING AGAIN.
TAKE CARE.
KOMAKO.
step
I WILL.

ZSHH
KIYOHARU-SAMA!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

I HAD NEVER SEEN THAT BIRD BEFORE.
BEAUTIFUL.
AH!
I'M SO SORRY!
reCoil
GASP
THAT'S A PEACOCK.

I HEAR THERE ARE LOTS OF THEM HOPPING ABOUT IN THE TOWNS OF INDIA.
THAT'S THE NAME OF THE BIRD, PEACOCK.
HUH?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU, YOU KNOW.
YOU ALWAYS SEEM TO BE ABSORBED IN SOME DOOR ART OR HANGING SCROLL.
SO YOU FINALLY NOTICED ME, HUH?
IT WAS THE KIND OF BIRD THAT ONLY APPEARED IN DREAMS.
I FELT AS THOUGH I WERE IN ONE...

IF I TELL YOU THAT I'M WITH YOU IN SOUL EVEN WHEN WE'RE APART, DO YOU BELIEVE ME?
ONE DAY,
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A REAL PEACOCK.
...WHEN I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE DREAMING.
GOOD GRIEF.
ABSOLUTELY DESPICABLE.

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS, HASN'T IT?
NEVER AGAIN WOULD I SEE THAT BIRD OR HAVE THAT DREAM. NOT EVER.
DID YOU SAY HER FATHER IS A TATTOOIST?
WE SHOULD SEND BOTH FATHER AND DAUGHTER TO THE POLICE!
IF YOU SO MUCH AS TRY ANYTHING TO SULLY THE HONOR OF OUR FAMILY EVER AGAIN, BOTH YOU AND THAT WENCH WILL PAY.

I'M HERE TO SEE YOU, THE SECOND HORIMATSU, AS A CLIENT.
EH?
DON'T WORRY I DIDN'T COME HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE PAST.
I WANT YOU TO TATTOO ME.
...!
I'M WILLING TO SPEND JUST NAME YOUR PRICE.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! YOU'RE THE ELDEST SON OF A COUNT!

SORRY FOR THE BOTHER.
NO CHOICE, THEN.
IF YOU REFUSE, I'LL SIMPLY LOOK FOR ANOTHER TATTOO ARTIST.
I CAN'T DO THAT!
IT'S UNACCEPT-ABLE!
SOMEONE
WAIT!
ELSE?

PLEASE LET ME TATTOO YOU!
I'LL DO IT!
LIKE A RED FLOWER ..
BLOOMING ON THE SKIN ...
I'LL LEAVE THE DESIGN TO YOU.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME I WANT IT DONE IN ONE MONTH.
WE HAVE A DEAL.

...THESE FEELINGS WOULD NOT FADE.
THE DESIGN IS COMPLETE. PLEASE LIE DOWN ON THE FUTON
ALL RIGHT.
I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE OF TOUCHING THIS MAN'S SKIN

prick
slit slit slit

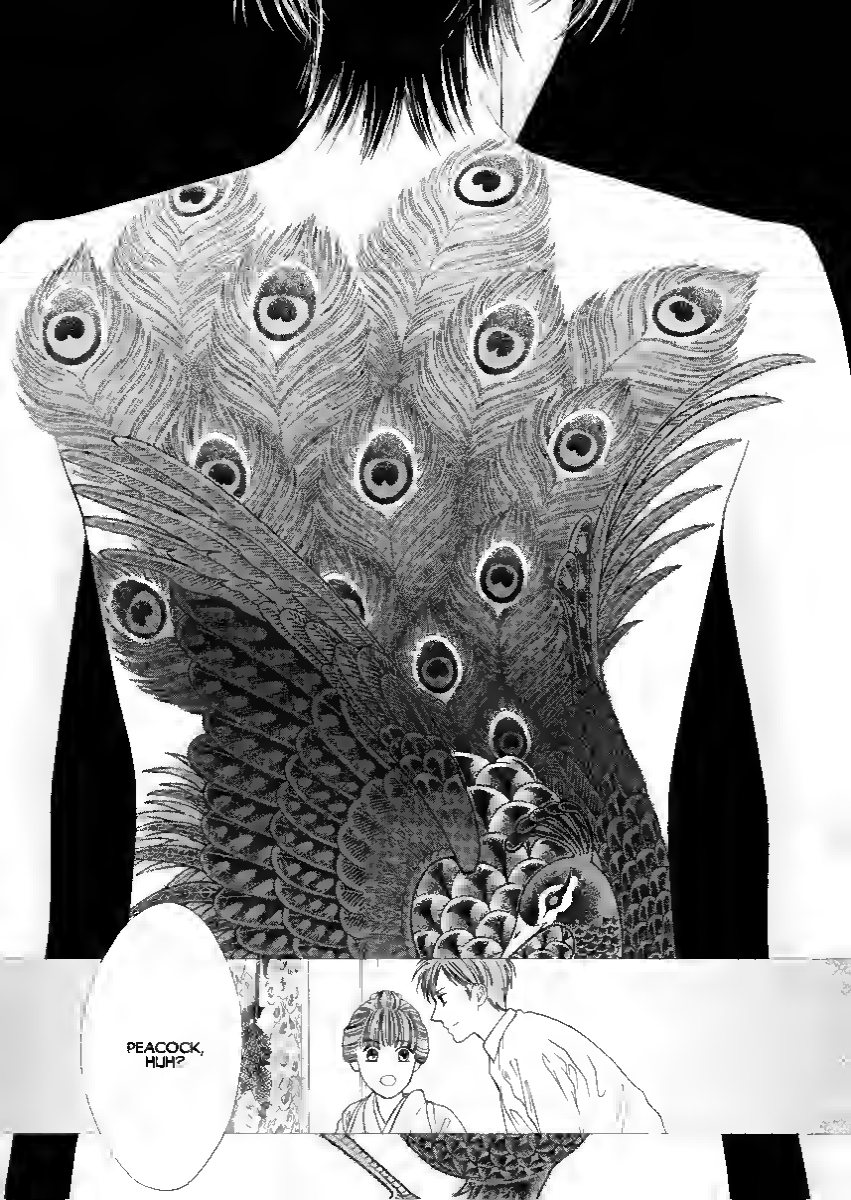
...!
YOU MAY CRY OUT IF YOU WANT.
FEWER NEEDLES ARE USED DURING THE OUTLINING PROCESS, BUT THE PAIN IS MORE INTENSE
AM I...
DO YOU WANT ME TO?
LAMENTING THIS SITUATION?

OR...?
WE'LL RESUME THIS TOMORROW.
KIYOHARU-SAMA, PLEASE TAKE THIS MEDICINE.
YOU MIGHT DEVELOP A FEVER, I'M AFRAID.
THANK YOU.

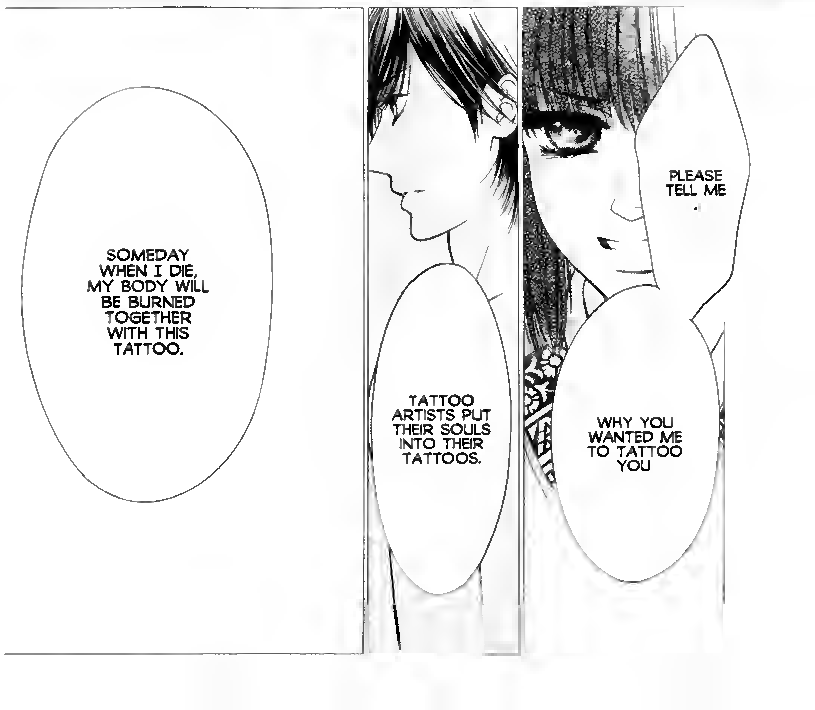
...!
IT STINGS
cough
fu33
cough...
"I BELIEVE YOU"

I WANT TO ENGRAVE ...
THIS PAIN...
DEEPER...
AND STILL DEEPER...
EVEN IF WE STOPPED SEEING EACH OTHER, MY SOUL WOULD ALWAYS BE WITH YOU.
IT HURTS.

...IN MY HEART.
HAVE A LOOK.
IT'S DONE.


PEACOCK, HUH?

AS EXPECTED FROM ONE HAILED AS THE SECOND HORIMATSU.
REMARKABLE INDEED


PLEASE TELL ME
WHY YOU WANTED ME TO TATTOO YOU
TATTOO ARTISTS PUT THEIR SOULS INTO THEIR TATTOOS.
SOMEDAY WHEN I DIE, MY BODY WILL BE BURNED TOGETHER WITH THIS TATTOO.

AT THE VERY LEAST,
I WANTED A COMPANION IN DEATH.
I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM THAT WASN'T MEANT TO BE.

THE TATTOO PIGMENTS REMAIN IN THE BONES AND IN THE ASHES.
MY SOUL SLEEPS WITH HIM ,,,
FOREVER.
FIN